recovery" for using the aircrafts for non- official purposes by the four former Prime Ministers as reported in the 'Hindustan Times', dated the 8th February, 2000;

(b) whether Government have since initiated legal action against them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Appropriate actiqn as per law is being taken for recovery of the dues.

Policy document on Defence strategy

5510 SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to launch a policy documents for the upgradation of the defence strategy of India;

(b) if so, the salient features of this policy document;

(c) whether Government are also going to lay down the detailed procedure for the procurement of defence equipment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) While there is no specific proposal before the Government for launching any document for upgradation of defence strategy of India, Government continually monitor all factors impinging upon our national security at various levels including National Security Council and its other substructures *viz.* the Strategic Policy Group (SPG) and National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) as also the Cabinet Committee on Security/Cabinet. Further a Group of Ministers consisting of Home Minister, Defence Minister, External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister has been set up to review the National Security system in its entirety,

(c) and (d) A detailed Defence Procurement Procedure has been laid down by the Government in 1992. Further through periodical in-house examination/review, the Government continuously endeavours to improve defence procurement procedures to ensure that these provide- requisite flexibility and contribute to achieving higher levels of efficiency,

accountability and optimal utilisation of resources allocated to the Ministry of Defence. The Government has also set up a Committee headed by the Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) to suggest further streamlining of defence procurement proceudre to ensure the twin objective of accountability and expediency.

New police check posts in Assam

5511. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up new police check posts in the State of Assam to control the law and order situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of additional budget being given to strengthen The law and order sitaution in the State; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOMEAFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Arrest of NSCN General Secretary

5512. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the HindsutanTimes dated the 28th January, 2000, regarding arrest of T.H. Muivah General Secretary 'of NSCN in Thailand; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFARIS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India remains committed to peace talks with NSCN(I / M).

Bal Bharti student wounded by gun shot

5513. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that one student at the Air Force Bal Bharti School was wounded by gun shot;